



► KEEPS LOCAL SCHOOLS LOCAL



► BOOSTS CLASSROOM RESOURCES



► IMPROVES STUDENT OUTCOMES

Maine Department of Education, February 2007

Local Schools *Regional Support*

CREATING A MORE EFFECTIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM – ONE WITH A STREAMLINED STRUCTURE – WHILE ALLOWING FOR LOCAL VOICE AND CONNECTION

Why LSRS? Because Maine Can Do Better

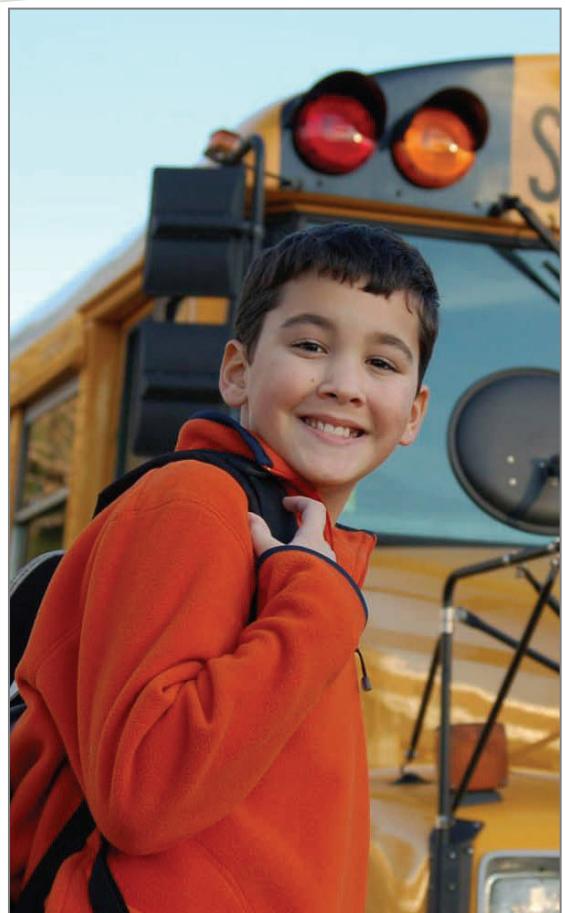
Maine is performing above the average in national test scores, but scores reached a plateau in 2000 and have stayed there.

According to the Brookings Institution, Maine's K-12 system is one of the most expensive in the country and the largest single outlay in the combined state and local budget. Brookings says the cumbersome system imposes heavy costs on taxpayers because of its complex, highly fragmented governance structure.

MAINE CAN DO BETTER!

The *Local Schools, Regional Support* Initiative shifts the focus from administration to the classroom to achieve excellence in education for all Maine students. LSRS keeps local schools local and consolidates central office administration.

LSRS will provide greater resources for classrooms, more professional development for teachers, more consistent instruction of Maine's *Learning Results*, and more coordination among schools. It will enhance education for **ALL** Maine children.



TAXPAYER RELIEF

The LSRS Initiative achieves significant and real savings in two ways. First, honoring the commitment for 55% state funding of approved education costs by July 1, 2008, results in \$178 million more for local education. That money will be available to ease the pressure on property taxes. Second, restructuring central office administration will achieve \$241 million of savings in the first three years of implementation. Governor Baldacci has made clear that the final plan approved by the Legislature must include significant, direct savings for local property taxpayers.

Local Schools, Regional Support Initiative



"Regional cooperation can improve services while cutting costs, an outcome that ought to be equally welcome to parents, students, and taxpayers."

—Maine Children's Alliance

Keeping Local Schools Local

The *Local Schools, Regional Support* Initiative retains local oversight. Regional boards will be comprised of representatives from the communities they serve, guaranteeing every parent, teacher, and community member a voice in how their schools are governed. Local advisory councils will be created at every school to advocate for their local needs.

LSRS protects local control through:

- Proportional representation on regional learning community boards, ensuring that all citizens have equal representation.
- Authority to local communities to override a decision by a regional board to close a local school.

- Regional budget meetings, similar to town meetings, providing opportunities for local residents to influence regional budgets and protect the programs that matter most to them.



Boosting Classroom Resources

The *Local Schools, Regional Support* Initiative reinvests statewide savings in teachers and students to ensure all students are ready for career, college, and citizenship.

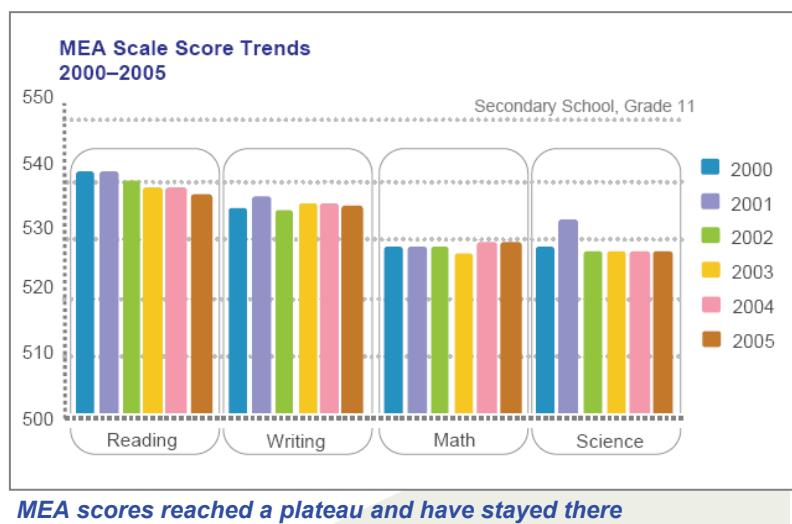
LSRS provides:

- Funding for a full-time principal at every school and increased teacher salaries.*
 - 151 schools currently without a full-time principal would get one.
- *Final authority on how to allocate funds rests with the regional boards.

- Laptop computers for every student in grades 7-12.

- \$2,000 scholarships to increase college access for all students – more than 15,000 students in next four years.

- Professional development resources for teachers.



Restructuring central office administration will allow us to reinvest money where it is most needed – in the classroom.

Improving Student Outcomes

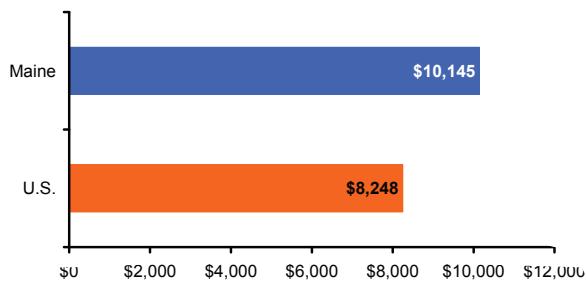
Why Now?

Maine spends more per student than the national average: \$10,145 per pupil (2004-05) in Maine compared to \$8,248 nationally.

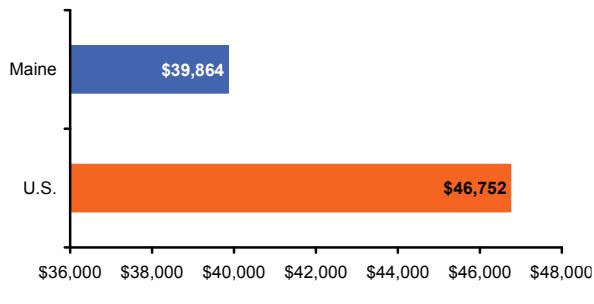
Education is one of the single largest expenses in state and local budgets. Nearly two-thirds of property taxes paid in Maine go to K-12 education.

"By a 91% to 2% margin, Maine voters agree the Legislature should 'streamline government at all levels to free up resources for investment in the new economy and lowering taxes.'"
—GrowSmart Maine
February 1, 2007

Maine spends nearly \$2,000 more per student than the national average.
Per Pupil Spending K-12, 2004-05



Maine teachers make nearly \$7,000 less than the national average.
Average Teacher Salary 2004-05



Maine needs to act now



"...Regionalization of school governance has the potential to produce better results in student learning given the limited financial and personnel resources available."
—State Board of Education

Moving Maine Forward

2007

January

MDOE ORGANIZES DATA AND HIRES FACILITATORS to help every region:

- Bring communities together
- Meld resources
- Analyze data

July-August

FORM REGIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

2008

October

LOCAL VOTERS ELECT NEW REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS to hire a superintendent and create priorities for regional districts

2009 and beyond

FULL IMPLEMENTATION

ENJOY REWARDS

- Coordinated and consistent approach to education statewide
- More resources for students
- More resources for teachers
- Streamlined costs and property tax relief

Property Tax Relief

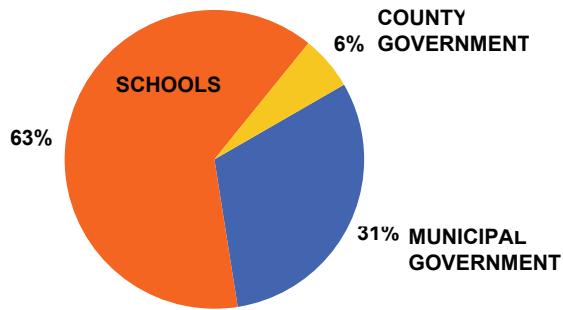
Nearly two-thirds of property taxes in Maine go to support local K-12 education.

State and local education expenditures are increasing even as student enrollments are declining.

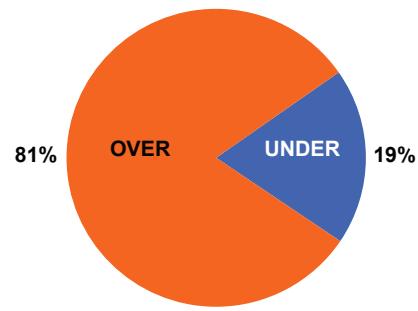
The *Local Schools, Regional Support* Initiative will reduce the pressure on property taxes by:

- Increasing state aid to local education by \$178 million over two years.
- Saving \$241 million in administrative costs over three years that will be redirected to classroom instruction and property tax relief.
- Creating a more sustainable structure for delivering high quality education to Maine's children.

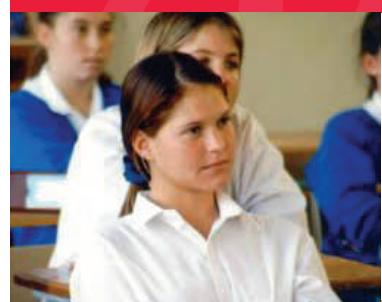
School funding is the largest component of property taxes.



81% of School Administrative Units exceeded their growth limits for the 2006-07 school year.



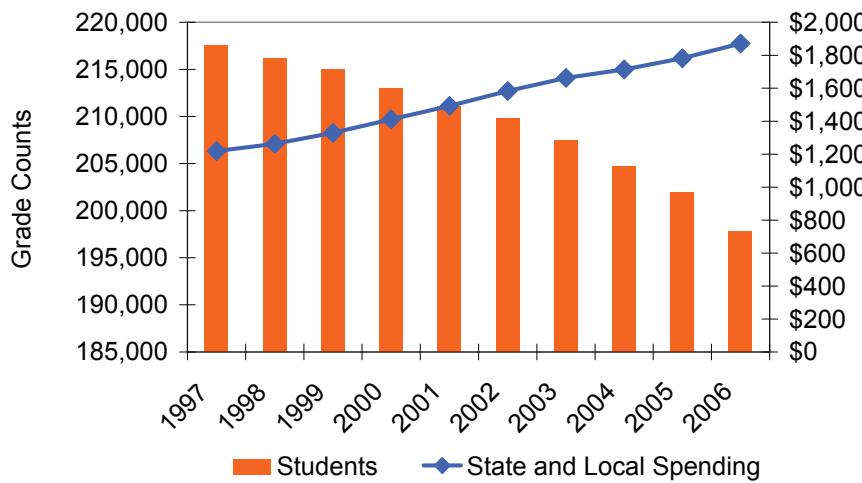
81% of school administration units exceeded their spending limits



"Consensus has developed – and this is very unusual – that we spend too much on K-12 administration."

George Smith, Columnist,
Kennebec Journal

Declining enrollments cannot sustain heavy administrative costs.



For more information and discussion of the LSRS Initiative and its implementation, go online to:

[www.maine.gov/education/
supportingschools](http://www.maine.gov/education/supportingschools)

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